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DANC 446.01: Teaching Projects - Teaching Assistantship

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University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance
DANC 446-01
Teaching Projects: Teaching Assistantship (2 credits)
(Requirement for BFA Dance Teaching Degree)

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Course Description:

This course serves as a capstone project for the BFA Dance Teaching degree candidate. The student works one on one with a full time tenure track faculty member in a dance class based in the style of their choice. It is the prerogative of the student to actively set up this collaboration with the faculty member teaching the course. Once arrangements are made to intern for the course, the student will meet with the faculty member to gain greater insight regarding the pedagogical approach and methodology designed for the course. Over the course of the semester, the student will be given greater responsibility in terms of her/his participation in creating and delivering movement technique sequences, improvisational structures, culminating dance phrases and constructive feedback. Students are expected to participate fully at all times, maintain distinction between student and instructor roles, participate in self-directed related research relative to the concepts covered in class and ask questions.

Objectives:

1. To gain in depth knowledge regarding an approach to teaching contemporary dance technique (albeit in contemporary modern dance, ballet, jazz, or other).
2. To author dance technique sequences, improvisational structures, culminating phrases (or more as assigned by instructor) relative to the pedagogical approach, content and technical level designed for the course.
3. To develop the ability to constructively analyze dance students' performance relative to their successes and challenges in their technical/artistic/creative class performance.
4. To provide an opportunity to share constructive feedback with dance students regarding their successes and challenges relative to course content.

Assignments:

1. Student will meet with the instructor weekly for class planning purposes.
2. Student will analyze weekly course content and construct potential material for use in each class at the direction of the instructor.
3. Student will attend each class for which s/he is an intern.
4. Student will discuss results realized (or not) during class weekly.
5. Student will conduct individual research relative to the current course content and share with instructor over the course of the term.
6. Student will facilitate class exercises at the discretion of the instructor.
7. Student will provide constructive feedback throughout the course of the semester.
8. Student will author a final reflective paper:
 - Consider your approach to teaching a dance technique class prior to your participation in the teaching internship (how did you structure your class, upon which skills did you focus, what were your proposed learning outcomes and how

did you approach reaching these goals). Following your experience working with a faculty member in the construction/planning/revising of her/his course, delivery of content and reflecting upon the growth and development of the students, consider: "What is my current pedagogical approach?" If you were to have the opportunity to teach dance technique following the completion of your degree, how would you construct and deliver a technique class, what would your proposed student learning outcomes be and how would you develop your approach to satisfy such goals?

Grading: Final grades are determined for each of the objectives in the following way~

- **Attending planning sessions (40 points):** Actively engaging in the planning session, analyzing movement sequences, brainstorming ideas to support course content, engaging in creation of class material
- **Authorship of dance technique sequences or structures (20 points):** Developing course material relative to the curricular content for the week and remaining open to constructive feedback and the possibility of revision for such content by the instructor. Effective teaching and delivery of content to the participants.
- **Developing a critical eye (10 points):** Demonstrating the ability to identify specific technical, integrative and artistic components upon which students could focus during/after class. Maintaining openness to feedback from the instructor regarding growth and development in this area.
- **Delivering constructive criticism (10 points):** Demonstrating the ability to be able to give specific, clear, concise and constructive feedback to the group and individuals. Maintaining openness to feedback from the instructor regarding growth and development in this area.
- **Final Reflective paper (20 points):** Paper is evaluated with respect to thoroughness, clarity, depth of analysis and reflection as well as grammatical structure.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student **without my consent**. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

From the EO/AA Office:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

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